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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001

Guidelines and rules of procedure

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, inter alia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade.

3. In its resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2001, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Place and dates of the Seminar

4. The Caribbean Regional Seminar will be held at Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001.

III. Purpose of the Seminar

5. The purpose of the Seminar is to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The topics to be considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

7. The contributions of the participants will serve as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010).

8. Participants will be required to submit papers, which may include conclusions and recommendations/suggestions on the topics specified in the agenda as they pertain to Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the Special Committee.

IV. Agenda of the Seminar

9. The agenda of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Strategies for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   (a) Assessment of the level of implementation of the plan of action during the first International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

   (b) Developing strategies for the Second International Decade to promote the implementation of the plan of action and the relevant United Nations resolutions by the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

2. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

   (a) Analysis of criteria or indicators of self-government in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions;

   (b) Developing political education programmes in the Territories to foster awareness among the peoples of the political status options available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

   (c) Strengthening cooperation with administering Powers;

   (d) Importance of visiting missions to the Territories;

   (e) Importance of the dissemination of information on the process of decolonization and on the role of the United Nations to the populations of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. Development strategies for strengthening assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the United Nations system:

   (a) Assessment of existing mandates for the provision of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes;

(b) Developing strategies to improve and increase the level of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes.

4. Recent political, economic and social developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in those in the Caribbean region:

(a) Political and constitutional developments;

(b) Economic and social situation;

(c) Steps necessary for the achievement of self-determination in the Territories in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

(d) Views of the participants on the use of military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the impact of military activities on the environment, economic development and health of the population.

5. Socio-economic conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their effect on decolonization:

(a) Impact of globalization; participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the global economy, including the impact of international developments on the financial services sector of the Territories;

(b) Effects of migration to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Rights of indigenous peoples;

(d) Land issues;

(e) Protection of the right of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ownership, control and disposal of their natural wealth and resources, including marine resources pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international conventions;

(f) Environmental and climate issues, including the impact of natural disasters and the need for disaster preparedness.

V. Organization of the Seminar

10. The following provisions will govern the organization of the Seminar:

(a) The Seminar will be organized by the Special Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the annex to the present guidelines;

(b) The Seminar will be conducted by a delegation of the Special Committee consisting of the Chairman and eight other members;

(c) The Seminar may be attended by the following:

(i) Representatives of the host Government;

(ii) Representatives of the administering Powers;

(iii) Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(iv) A representative of the Secretary-General;

(v) Representatives of concerned specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system;

(vi) Representatives of the non-governmental organizations based in the region and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(vii) Experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(viii) Appropriate media representatives.

Annex

Rules of procedure

Preamble

The Caribbean Regional Seminar is being held under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000. The organization of the Seminar and the conduct of its proceedings shall follow the general guidelines set out in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.[a]

Rule 1
Responsibility for conducting the Seminar

The Seminar shall be organized by the Special Committee and conducted by the Chairman of the Special Committee, as the Chairman, with the assistance of the Bureau of the Seminar (see rule 2 (a) below).

Rule 2
Officers of the Seminar

(a) The Chairman shall appoint three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and a Chairman of the Drafting Group of the Seminar from among the participating members of the Special Committee. These officers shall be given specific responsibilities by the Chairman and shall constitute the Bureau of the Seminar;

(b) The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Seminar, direct its discussions, ensure observance of the present rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions;

(c) If the Chairman is unable to be present at a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting.

Rule 3
Secretariat

(a) The secretariat of the Special Committee shall service the Seminar;

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements regarding the organization of the Seminar.

Rule 4
Languages

The working languages of the Seminar shall be English, French and Spanish.

Rule 5
Conduct of business

(a) Decisions shall, as a rule, be taken by consensus. Should a vote be required, only representatives of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall be entitled to vote;

(b) Any procedural question with regard to the conduct of business of the Seminar not covered by the present rules shall be decided upon by the Chairman in consultation with the Bureau of the Seminar.

Rule 6
Participation in the Seminar

Participation in the Seminar shall be restricted to the persons to whom formal invitations have been addressed by the Chairman of the Special Committee in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly[b] and whose names appear on the official list of participants drawn up by the Chairman (see also para. 5 of the present guidelines).

Rule 7
Debates and publicity concerning the Seminar

(a) The meetings of the Seminar shall be held in public unless the Chairman decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private;

(b) Statements on behalf of the Seminar to the information media shall be made by the Chairman. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat shall be responsible for the dissemination of information on the Seminar, including the issuance of press releases covering meetings of the Seminar held in public;

(c) Participating non-governmental organizations shall be represented by the person so invited (see rule 6 above), who may make one general statement on issues within the purview of the Committee's mandate and pertaining to those Territories under its consideration during the course of the Seminar;

(d) The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker;

(e) During the course of the discussion, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the list closed. When there are no speakers, the Chairman shall, with the consent of the Seminar, declare the debate closed.

Rule 8
Records

The Seminar shall have sound recordings of its proceedings, which shall be retained in the archives of the United Nations in accordance with established practice.

Rule 9
Report

The members of the Special Committee attending the Seminar shall present a report on the Seminar, the draft of which shall be prepared by the Rapporteur of the Seminar. The Seminar shall entrust to the Chairman of the Special Committee the task of preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on the basis of the information contained in the report. The Chairman shall appoint a drafting group, chaired by one of the members of the delegation of the Special Committee, to assist him in preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. The report of the Seminar, containing draft conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Chairman, shall be submitted to the Special Committee for its consideration and subsequent submission to the appropriate bodies.

Notes

[a] A/520/Rev.15 and Amend.1.

[b] See A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, para. 22 (c).